

Danny Nowlan
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Department of Home Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra

Re: The Assistance and Access Bill 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regards to the proposed Assistance and Access Bill 2018. I would strongly urge the government and department to cease and desist with this legislation. It not only is a massive government over reach but it paves the way for a totalitarian nightmare state as described in George Orwell's novel 1984.

In any free society the right to privacy is a key tenet. If it wasn't why would state police need to obtain a search warrant before demanding entry into a private citizen's home? The right to privacy in the digital world is no different. This was eloquently articulated by the movie actress Jennifer Lawrence when her private photos were hacked and nude pictures of her were made freely available. Under this proposed legislation there is nothing stopping a bureaucrat helping themselves to sensitive data.

Also one of the backbones to the new digital world is the privacy and encryption of financial details. What is being proposed could easily be manipulated to expose credit card numbers and PayPal login details. Given that online transactions are a key pillar of financial infrastructure do you really want to put this at risk?

Lastly you only have to review George Orwell 1984 to realise this is the first step of a totalitarian state. One of the key features of this dystopian world was 24 hour a day surveillance. George Orwell didn't write about this because he loved the sound of his own literature. It was a chilling warning that this sort of power should never be granted particularly to the state.

It is for all these reason I would strongly urge you to cease and desist with this legislation.

Best Regards

Danny Nowlan